

Serial No.: 10/619,551

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-12, as amended, are before the Examiner for consideration. Claims 2 and 13-17 have been canceled.

Applicant appreciates the statements in the Office Action that claims 2-6 and 8-12 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the independent claim from which they depend.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite the subject matter of allowable claim 2 (now canceled), thereby making claims 1 and 3-12 immediately allowable. Minor edits have been made to those claims. Claims 13-17 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer to applicant's right to claim such subject matter in a divisional application.

1. The finality of the restriction requirement is acknowledged.

2. Claims 1 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Elenius et al. U.S. Patent 6,441,487.

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Claims 1 and 7 are allowable as explained herein, thereby mooting the rejection.


All claims 1 and 3-12 are now proper in form and patentably distinguished over all grounds of rejection stated in the Office Action. Accordingly, allowance of all claims 1 and 3-12 is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action by the applicants would be desirable to place this application in even better condition for issue, the Examiner is requested to telephone applicants' undersigned representatives.

Respectfully submitted,

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